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Volume 3

Number 1 *The Iowa Homemaker* vol.3, no.1

Article 11

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1923

## Protection for Our Feathered Neighbors

The Iowa Homemaker

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### Recommended Citation

The Iowa Homemaker (1923) "Protection for Our Feathered Neighbors," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 3 : No. 1 , Article 11.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol3/iss1/11>

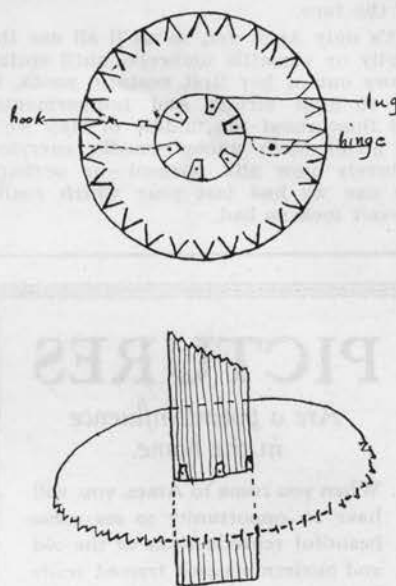
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## Protection for Our Feathered Neighbors

WHAT shall we do for the birds this season? We know what they will do for us if they get a chance. The robins will steal our earthworms. What matter, there are plenty more where those came from. And they will gladly accept some of our cherries too, if we remember their habits from last year. Well, perhaps we will have enough wormy ones so that they will leave the good ones for us. We know that the bluebirds will do us no harm, and that they will be a continual source of joy to us thruout the summer if we can induce them to nest in our boxes, and can give them the protection that they deserve. In the first place then, there comes the problem of the English sparrow, that ever present nuisance. From the wren house he can be excluded by making the opening only the size of a quarter, and the wren can then easily enter.

The protection of the bluebirds from this rascal—the rat of bird-dom—is not nearly so easy, unfortunately. Bluebirds will accept a lower nest than the English sparrow cares to occupy, so it is said, but that lays it open to the attacks of cats.

A cat campaign would be worth while, if it wasn't so likely to get tangled with people's prejudices. Wherever cats can be abated on the quiet or openly it surely is permissible to attend to it in season and out of season. THERE IS NO "CLOSED SEASON" ON THE DOMESTIC CAT! But cats will prowl at night—will prowl far, sometimes. You can't always be on hand to protect your proteges. I have had good success with



"cat-guards" placed around the trees where the bluebird nesting boxes were fastened. The best of these guards were made out of old pieces of sheet iron from a defunct furnace. One can cut a pattern of paper to find what size is necessary to fit the particular tree. It should not fit too closely as tree growth must be taken account of. The "cheval-de-frise" should project from the tree about five or six inches at the outer edge, the inner lugs being turned up close to the

tree and attached to it by nails not driven too deeply as you will want to remove it in the winter. The guard may consist of two pieces fastened together with wires or rivets. The edge of the collar is cut with tin shears as shown, having the single points alternate with the double points, and then turning each of the outer ends of the triangles at right angles to the alternate points. A good plan is to have a rivet on one side for a hinge, and to have two scoppols of the tin on the other side projecting so that they may be put thru holes in the other piece and bent back to hold pieces in place.

If the tops of the down-spouts of the eaves pipes are protested from sparrows by the insertion of the wire cage type of sparrow excluders for sale by hardware stores the pests will find it impossible to nest in the pipes and will be less likely to stay around to pester the other birds. It will also serve to keep your soft water supply from being fouled. The real way to get the sparrows is by trapping or poisoning in the winter. "The English Sparrow as a Pest" is the title of Farmers' Bulletin No. 493 which will be sent free to any one who applies for it to the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C.

"Bird Houses and How to Build Them" which is the name of Farmers' Bulletin No. 609, and Farmers' Bulletin No. 912 entitled "How to Attract Birds in the East Central States" are both full of information which every bird lover of Iowa should send for along with the one about English Sparrows.

## The Economy Game and How the Turners Played It

By HELEN LAMB

MOTHER TURNER sat at her desk tapping her forehead with her pencil. She just had had a long serious talk with Father Turner concerning a new gown and wrap for Lucy, the eldest daughter, to wear to the junior-senior prom.

Father ended the discussion by banging his fist on the table and announcing that he was tired trying to keep up the growing expenses of his household, and Lucy would have to wear her old dress or stay at home.

"How can I manage to save money out of my house allowance for that dress?" thought Mother. It was the first time Father had ever refused money for anything she had asked, but nevertheless she realized that he was very much in earnest, and that something must be done to stretch that monthly allowance.

She took out the grocery lists for the past month and looked them over. No, there wasn't an item on any of those lists which she could possibly eliminate. The health of her family must not be sacrificed—but what does this mean? Here were two almost identical grocery lists with nearly a dollar difference in the total cost. Why should one grocery have such a difference in price on a few staple articles than another?

Then a bright idea struck her. Why, of course, this list from Norton's had been delivered, while John Junior had brought home the list from Parker's. Then too she remembered that the prunes from Norton's came in a neat paper package while those from Parker's came in bulk. And really the latter had served her purpose just as well, and lasted much longer too.

"No more deliveries in our house," said Mother, "and I think I shall investigate these stores before I buy again."

All that day Mother spent planning. There were so many things to consider besides Lucy's dress. Both she and her two daughters needed new housedresses, the little boys needed romper suits and they all needed shoes. It surely was a problem.

She picked up the morning paper and looked over the advertisements. "Big sale on at Reymers! Remnants galore!" Remnants—why not? She and Lucy both had several old gingham dresses, the skirts of which were perfectly good, altho the waists were worn. Why not get some remnants of plain gingham, cut off the skirts of the gingham dresses and take two piece housedresses? Just the thing!

When Lucy returned from school one

evening a few days later she found her mother cutting up long strips of unbleached muslin.

"What are you going to do with that, Mother?" she asked.

"Those are curtains for your room Lucy, that you have wanted so long," her mother answered.

"Curtains, Mother? Not from that cheap stuff surely," said Lucy.

"Yes," said Mrs. Turner, "Go up to my room and bring down that bag of scraps, and that box of old embroidery floss. Now, select from those scraps all the colors you can to match your spread."

Three days later Lucy's bedroom looked fresh and lovely with its crisp muslin curtains appliqued in bright colors. Three new cushions covered with bright cretonne, also remnants, added much to the appearance of the room.

The practice of economy had now become quite a game in the Turner household. Everyone did his or her part to save as much as possible so Lucy might get her new gown. As the end of the month drew near, Mrs. Turner in summing up her accounts found that she had saved enough to buy her daughter's dress, but there would be nothing left for a wrap. It looked very much as if Lucy would have to wear her old coat.